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U.S. Office of Censorship

U.S. cable and radio censorship regulations

Washington

1942

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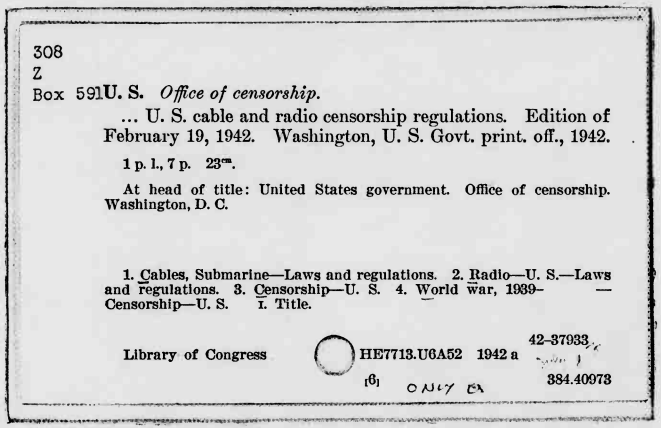

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U. S. CABLE AND RADIO CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

308
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Box 591

EDITION OF FEBRUARY 19, 1942

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U. S. CABLE AND RADIO CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

Strict compliance with these regulations, while required, will not insure the passage of any message either by the United States or foreign censorships. Senders of messages should keep themselves informed as to foreign censorship rules through the operating companies.

REGULATION 1. DISCRETION OF CENSOR.

All messages will be accepted for transmission at the sender's risk, and may be stopped, delayed, or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the censor, without notice to the sender.

REGULATION 2. TRANSMISSION TO ENEMY-OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

No message will be accepted for transmission to territory under enemy occupation, unless the communication is a Government message to or from one of the other American Republics, or unless special license has been granted by the Office of Censorship to send the message.

REGULATION 3. INFORMATION REGARDING DELIVERY.

Service involving notification by the company to the sender as to the fact or time of delivery of any international message is suspended except for international press dispatches. Inquiries at Censorship Stations regarding messages cannot be handled by telephone.

Patrons filing "reply prepaid" messages, and communication companies which accept "collect" messages, must do so at their own risk, since no information regarding deliveries can be given and thus no refunds made.

REGULATION 4. PROPER ADDRESS.

On every message there must be an address which will clearly identify the addressee for whom the message is intended.

Except where a cable address is permitted under these regulations, the address must be in plain language. The use of an abbreviation of the entire postal address, provided such abbreviation is sufficient in itself to insure the identification of the addressee by the censors through whose hands the message will pass, is not prohibited; but all abbreviations of address are used at the risk of the senders, and Censorship can give no assurance that any specific abbreviation will suf-

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fice in all cases to insure identification of the addressee or ready delivery of the message.

The names of large or well-known buildings such as banks, hotels, etc., are sufficient without street addresses.

REGULATION 5. CABLE ADDRESSES.

Cable addresses are not permitted at present. However, in order to expedite the assembly of a complete file of cable addresses being used in other countries, it is requested that persons or firms who are usual patrons of the cable and radio inform the Chief Cable Censor, Washington, D. C., by letter, showing the names, addresses, and corresponding cable addresses of the foreign persons or firms to whom their messages are sent.

REGULATION 6. SUPPLEMENTARY ADDRESS INFORMATION.

Full name and full address as used in this regulation, in either (a) or (b) below, shall be understood to mean given name, middle initials, and surnames; street and number, or name of office building; and town or city, with name of State or country where necessary to avoid ambiguity.

The following supplementary information will not be transmitted as a part of the message, but may, by direction of the sender and on payment by him of the landline toll, be transmitted as far as the station of the first cable censor to act on the message.

(a) *Addressee.*—When any cable address or any abbreviation of a plain language address is used in a message, the full name and full address of the addressee must also be recorded on the manuscript form on which such message is filed with the communication company.

If the message is addressed to an individual acting on behalf of a firm or other organization, the name and address of such firm or organization, and the addressee's connection with it, must appear on the form as well as the name and address of the addressee.

(b) *Sender.*—In addition to the signature required on the message, the full name and full address of the sender must be recorded, as supplementary information, on the manuscript form on which each message is filed with the communication company.

When a frequent patron of the cables or radio changes his address, it will expedite his traffic to give both the old and the new address on two or three of his first dispatches sent from the new address.

If the message is signed by an individual acting in behalf of a firm or organization, or by an abbreviated form of the name of that organization, the full name and full address of that organization must also be given on the form.

(c) The name of the commodity, if any, involved in the message, must be stated on the form, and should be stated in the text of the message.

REGULATION 7. SIGNATURE.

All messages must be signed.

The signature transmitted should, when considered in connection with the text and the addressee, be such as to identify the sender clearly, and distinguish him from any other individual, firm or organization with a similar name.

The transmitted signature of an individual must consist of the surname at least. Such signatures as "Father," "Aunt Bess," or a nickname, will not be accepted.

The transmitted signature of a firm or organization must be sufficiently complete to identify it clearly. The name of a responsible member of the firm or officer of the organization may be used, provided satisfactory information regarding him is made available to the censor.

A cable address as signature is not permitted, but where a surname or the name of an organization is also registered, the fact that it is so registered will not preclude its use as a signature.

REGULATION 8. TEXT.

Messages will not be passed unless the meaning of the text is clear to the censor.

Single-word texts satisfy this requirement only in rare instances, and then only with appreciable delay necessary for inquiry or investigation.

Messages consisting of address and signature only, with no text, are not permitted.

REGULATION 9. LANGUAGE PERMITTED.

All plain language messages must be in English, French, Portuguese, or Spanish. However, all press dispatches should be filed in English; otherwise they may be subject to delay. Transit traffic may be in any plain language which is acceptable at destination.

Legitimate terms or words common in any profession or trade may be used if intelligible to the censor and not susceptible to double meaning as used.

REGULATION 10. COMMERCIAL CODES.

The use of the following commercial codes is permitted in terminal traffic:

Name of Code	*Indicating Symbol*
ABC Sixth Edition	ABC
ACME Code and Supplement	ACME
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code	BENCOM
Bentley's Second Phrase Code	BENSEC
Lombard General Code	LOMGEN
Lombard Shipping Code and Appendix	LOMSHIP

Name of Code	*Indicating Symbol*
New Standard Half Word Code	STANHAF
New Standard Three Letter Code	STANTER
Peterson's Third Edition	PET

In every coded message the code used must be indicated by placing the appropriate indicating symbol in the heading of the message. The symbol is not a chargeable word so used.

Cable and radio patrons should ascertain from the communication companies whether the code is acceptable by the censorship, if any, at the destination of the message.

The use of private codes is not permitted except by special license granted by the Director of Censorship. Such licenses cannot be granted unless the licensee is in a position to furnish 15 copies of the code book for the use of censors.

The use of code words from catalogues and price lists cannot be permitted since there is little likelihood that they can be made intelligible to the censor. (See Regulation 8.)

It is advised that those issuing catalogues or price lists containing code words mark them with a statement as follows:

"During the continuance of the United States Cable and Radio Censorship, these code words are not permitted in cablegrams."

REGULATION 11. TEST WORDS.

Banks and other business institutions which have previously used test words in the conduct of their business may continue to use test words in transmitting international messages: *Provided, however*, That the Office of Censorship may, at any time, and without notice, withdraw such privilege: *And provided further*, That any user of test words shall at any time furnish such information pertinent to his international communications as may be required by the Office of Censorship.

Any bank or business institution desiring to obtain the privilege of using test words in transmitting its international messages may apply to the Office of Censorship, but before such privilege is granted, and at any time thereafter, must furnish such information as may be required by the Office of Censorship.

REGULATION 12. INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM SENDER.

Information required by the censor from the sender in the United States in regard to a specific message may be requested when necessary by a "collect" telegram from the censor to the sender.

Any information which the sender may consider necessary to make the meaning of his cablegram or radiogram clear to the censor may be imparted in a prepaid domestic telegram addressed to the censor

having jurisdiction. This telegram ("Memorandum Message") should be filed with the cablegram or radiogram to which it refers.

REGULATION 13. UNRELATED NUMBERS IN TEXT.

Numbers that are unrelated to the text and not easily understandable to the censor are not permitted, whether expressed in plain figures or by code words translating into plain figures.

REGULATION 14. SERIAL NUMBERS.

Serial numbers in messages are subject to deletion, but may, at the sender's risk, be included as the first word on the message, when they can be easily understood by the censor and plainly do not convey a hidden meaning.

REGULATION 15. DELIVERY OF RADIOGRAMS TO SHIPS.

Due to restrictions on the use of radio by ships at sea, there can be no assurance of immediate delivery of, or reply to, radiograms addressed by the public to seagoing vessels.

REGULATION 16. STOCK MARKET DAILY REPORTS.

Routine stock market daily reports (including curb market, cotton, grain, and similar market reports) will be expedited by the censor the same as press dispatches when received from properly recognized and trustworthy agencies. However, reports concerning individual transactions and messages between brokers, dealers, firms, and individuals relative to bids, offers, acceptances, inquiries, quotations, etc., shall be subject to all of these regulations.

REGULATION 17. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

In connection with any messages relating to financial transactions, the censor may require complete information relative to the identity of the payor and payee, and the ultimate purpose of the transaction.

REGULATION 18. SUBJECTS EXCLUDED.

Except in press dispatches (for which separate regulations have been issued), no reference, either open or hidden, will be made to any of the following subjects in any international communication:

(*a*) The location, identity, description, movement or prospective movement of any merchant vessel, aircraft, naval or military vessel or naval or military force, including the collective or individual personnel thereof, operated by the United States or other nations opposing the Axis powers. Messages pertaining to the shipment of material or movements of vessels must be so worded as not to associate any two of the following elements: (1) The name of the vessel; (2) the nature of the cargo; and (3) the name of port or arrival or

departure. The specific date of arrival or departure on any present or future voyage is not permitted, but approximate dates may be used, employing such expressions as "next week," or "late next month," etc. No such expression shall be more specific than one week's time. This applies to American, anti-Axis, and Neutral ships alike.

(*b*) The location, identity, description, test, performance, production, movement or prospective movement, of defensive or offensive weapons, installations, supplies, material, or equipment of the United States or other anti-Axis nations.

(*c*) The location, description, production, capacity, or specific output of existing or proposed private or Government-owned-or-controlled plants, yards, docks, dams, structures, experimental or other facilities, or to contracts, plans, and rates of industrial activity in connection therewith. This extends to any process, synthesis, or operation in the production, manufacture, or reconstruction of any article the export of which is prohibited or limited by the Government.

(*d*) The civil, military, industrial, financial, or economic plans of the United States or other countries opposing the Axis powers, or the personal or official plans of any official thereof.

(*e*) The employment of any naval, military, or civil defense unit of the United States or other anti-Axis nations.

(*f*) Reports on production and conditions in the mining, lumbering, fishing, livestock, and farming industries, and shortages or surpluses in connection therewith.

(*g*) Weather conditions (past, present, or forecast).

(*h*) The effect of enemy operations or casualties to personnel or material, suffered by the United States or other anti-Axis nations, until the information is officially released.

(*i*) The fact or effect of our military or naval operations against the enemy, until the information is officially released.

(*j*) The number, description, location, or identity of prisoners of war.

(*k*) Criticism of equipment, appearance, physical condition or morale of the collective or individual armed forces of the United States or other nations opposing the Axis powers.

(*l*) Any data whatever concerning military or naval communication or intelligence methods or results.

(*m*) Any other matter, the dissemination of which might directly or indirectly bring aid or comfort to the enemy, or which might interfere with the national effort of, or disparage the foreign relations of, the United States or other anti-Axis nations.

REGULATION 19. MESSAGES TO MILITARY AND NAVAL PERSONNEL.

Due to the necessity of avoiding disclosure of the location of military and naval units, personal messages to naval personnel afloat or

military personnel in the field, may be subject to considerable delay. At times it may be necessary, due to the exigencies of the situation, not to accept radio messages to such personnel.

FEBRUARY 19, 1942.

BYRON PRICE,
Director of Censorship.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
February 20, 1942.

Approved:
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

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